India's nuclear policy in the wake of Pakistan's nuclear programme

1624. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. SANJAYA SINH:
SHRI VITHLRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI JAGADISH JANI:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has a stockpile of about 15 nuclear weapons, according to western nuclear experts;

(b) whether the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Shahryar Khan, had admitted during his visit to U.S.A. that his country had the components and knowledge to assemble nuclear explosive device while urging the bush Administration to expert pressure on India to agree to a regional nuclear non-proliferation accord;

(c) whether the Pakistani Ambassador to the United States has confirmed Pak nuclear capability;

(d) the steps being taken to safeguard India's integrity and sovereignty against any Pakistani misadventure; and

(e) India's stand to participate in the 5 nation summit on a nuclear weapons-free zone in South Asia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) Government are aware of press reports in this regard.

(d) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

(e) Government are of the view that nuclear non-proliferation is a global issue and does not lend itself to a bilateral or a regional solution.

Visit by Indians to Central Asian

1625. SHRI RAJMOHAN GANDHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of official or non-official Indians who have visited the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union during the last six months; and

(b) the steps taken to stengthen India's links with these Republics in the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The following official delegations from India visited the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union:

(i) Additional Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs visited Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan in September 1991; (ii) Chairman, IFAI, visited Uzbekistan (Tashkent) in September 1991; (iii) A commercial delegation led by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan in October 1991; and (iv) Minister of State for Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution led an Indian delegation to Azerbaijan from 26 February to 1 March 1992.

A six-member non-official delegation led by Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, MP, visited Uzbekistan and Kazakhs-

tan from 25 January to 4 February 1992.

In addition to the above, Indian businessmen and private individuals regularly visit these Republics.

(b) The Presidents of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have already visited India. The Heads of State of Kirkhizstan, Tadjikstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan have been invited to visit India. The invitations have been accepted and dates for their visits are being finalised through diplomatic channels.

Agreements/Treaties would be signed with each of the independent Republics of the erstwhile USSR after bilateral consultations taking into account complementarity of interests and the need for development of cooperation in diverse and specific areas for mutual benefit. Some agreements have already been signed with Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Discussions are underway for conclusion of such agreements with the other Republics, i.e. Kirkhistan, Turkmenistan and Tadjikistan, as necessary.

Strengthening India's relations with Yugoslavia

1626. SHRI RAJMOHAN GANDHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve India's understanding of and links with the different Republics of Yugoslavia;

(b) the steps taken by Government to respond more efficiently to the changing situation in the different countries of East Europe?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADVSINH SOLANKI): (a) As founder-members of the Non-aligned Movement, India and Yugoslavia have traditionally hod closed and friendly relations. Substantial interaction has been held in diverse fields of cooperation, not with the Central authorities but also with the individual Republics of Yugoslavia.

(b) India's traditionally friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of Eastern Europe will be further strengthened consequent to the changes there.

It is Government's endeavour to fully utilise this potential for furthering mutually beneficial cooperation.

World summit for children, 1990

1627. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India participated in the 1990 world summit for children which set out the objectives of ending mass malnutrition, preventible disease and illiteracy before the end of the current decade;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has not yet ratified the convention adopted at the summit;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to achieve the objectives set out in the said convention?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The ratification process involves extensive consultations with different Ministries of the Government. These are expected to be completed shortly.

(d) A national plan of action to achieve the objectives of the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action is presently under finalisation.